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October 23, 1993

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MCCLERREN TO LEAD HOMECOMING PARADE:

CHARLESTON, IL--Local historian and Eastern Illinois University speech communication professor B.F. McClerren is the grand marshal for EIU's 1993 Homecoming parade, which begins at 9:30 a.m. today at the corner of Seventh Street and Lincoln Avenue.

Other dignitaries riding or walking in the parade include Gov. and Mrs. Jim Edgar, Rep. Mike Weaver, Sen. Harry "Babe" Woodyard, Eastern President David Jorns and Charleston Mayor Dan Cougill.

Board of Governors Universities Trustee Dr. Mack W. Hollowell of Charleston and the recipients of Eastern's 1993 alumni awards have also been invited to ride in the parade. They include Stephen Schnorf of Rochester, a Charleston native; Jill Fulton Nilsen of Charleston; and Craig Titley of Los Angeles, son of Dale and Bernice Titley of Mattoon.

McClarren has been teaching since 1959. Before joining the EIU speech communication faculty in 1964, he taught at Southern Illinois University and the State University of New York at New Paltz.

He will retire from Eastern at the end of the 1994 spring semester.

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McClerren is currently a member of the EIU Foundation, President's Honor Roll of Donors and the Deans Society.

He has played a major role in building the rhetoric and public address curriculum for Eastern's speech communication department and has served on key departmental committees.

In the community, he has served as a public speaker, presenting hundreds of speeches during the past 20 years. He is a member of the Abraham Lincoln Presenters Association and has presented his stage show, "A Visit with Lincoln," throughout the United States.

His extensive research of Lincoln has resulted in four books and numerous articles in scholarly journals. "I want to help keep alive Lincoln's beliefs in God, truth, freedom, forgiveness, responsibility, and constitutional government," said McClerren.

McClerren, who closely resembles Abe Lincoln, will dress the part in the parade.

Entries include marching bands from Eastern and Charleston High and Junior High and other area high schools. There will also be a wide variety of cars and floats carrying out the "Once Upon a Time" theme.

Entries will form on and near Seventh Street on the east side of Eastern's campus. The parade will proceed north on Seventh Street, around the Charleston Square and return south on Sixth Street, rejoining Seventh Street behind Boatmen's Bank near Lincoln Avenue.